GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS

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THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

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General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

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© *Photograph by Jonals*

DINING IS A FINE ART IN DENMARK

With their "Koldt Bord," "Smörrebröd," and fine pastries, Danish cooks rival the famed chefs of France in making food attractive to both eye and palate. Copenhagen draws upon the bountiful farms of Jutland and Funen, and the fish-teeming waters between them, for many table delicacies (see Bulletin No. 2).

HOW TEACHERS MAY OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

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Galápagos, Islands of Mystery

DISCOVERY of two bodies on waterless Marchina (also called Bindloe) Island, in the Galápagos, focused world-wide attention on these lonely bits of land, which lie about 600 miles west of Ecuador in the Pacific.

The tragedy adds a mystery of another kind to a region noted for many strange and puzzling forms of plant and animal life. A century ago Charles Darwin, then a youthful scientist, pointed out that half the flowers and half the birds of the islands are to be found nowhere else in the world. Scores of scientists and explorers, among them Dr. William Beebe, have since stumbled through thorny undergrowth, scaled lava rocks, and found the Galápagos to be an incomparable natural history museum.

More than 2,000 volcanic cones besprinkle the archipelago, and the islands' volcanic origin accounts for the peculiar interest they hold for science. Darwin deduced that the group has never been nearer the mainland, nor have the twelve principal islands been closer together, than they are to-day.

Chance To Study Evolution

Hence, the many species of flowers and birds, and, in some cases, sea life, that have drifted to the islands, have slowly developed along lines very different from those in their original homes. In few places has nature provided such a splendid chance to study the processes of evolution.

The Galápagos have also lured treasure seekers and a few colonists from Ecuador, the country to which they now belong. Tales of hidden treasure have come down through the centuries.

Pirates who looted the rich ports and churches of the west coast of South America are supposed to have buried much of their loot in these islands, and these stories seem to be borne out by the unearthing of two caches of silver ingots and pieces-of-eight (money) a number of years ago.

The islands lie astride the Equator, but cold Antarctic currents which fan the coast of Peru strike seaward at Cape Blanco and surge across the Galápagos group. Strong gales temper the climate, and often the air is quite chilly. Up to 800 feet most of the islands are barren, but above that level they are usually swathed in clouds whose moisture aids heavy growths of tropical plants and trees.

Although they appear to be only a few dots on a map of the broad Pacific, the islands have a combined area equal to that of Delaware, and the largest island, Albermarle (also called Isabela), is about the size of Long Island, New York.

Officially Known as "Colón"

Before the Panama Canal was dug the Galápagos were even more remote from shipping lanes than they are to-day. The islands were discovered, in fact, by a Spanish bishop, whose ship was blown off its course from Panama to Peru. For 400 years they have served as a pirate hideout, a "post office" for American whalers, a "happy hunting ground" for scientists, and an Ecuadorian convict station.

Most of the 2,000 inhabitants of the group to-day are Spanish-speaking Ecuadorians like those seen in any port in Ecuador. Officially the islands are known as the Territory of Colón, of Ecuador.

The few "villages" consist of thatched huts and small iron-roofed buildings, clustered near small sugar, coffee and tobacco plantations in the areas not covered with lava rock. Only two of the islands are inhabited. Each island has at least two names: one an official Spanish name, and the other an English name. The English names are generally used by explorers and scientists describing the islands.

Wild Life Is Tame

Galápagos wild life is tamer than the dogs, cats, goats, pigs, donkeys, and cattle which were "planted" here by early explorers and have increased in numbers until they have become a nuisance to the inhabitants. By destroying eggs and newly-born tortoises, reptiles and wild birds, these "visitors" threaten with extinction many rare forms of life which scientists still wish to study.

Sea lions poke their heads above the waves and startle strangers with their unfriendly barks, and there are few animals meaner than the water iguana, a giant lizard which cavorts about the islands' quiet bays.

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Photograph by H. Armstrong Roberts

ONE QUICK THRUST, AND THE SAMOAN HAS FRESH FISH FOR DINNER

This rocky shore is similar to that where the ancient ceremony "Calling the Shark and the Turtle" is still carried out by the natives of Tutuila, American Samoa (see Bulletin No. 5).

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Bridge Will Link Two Main Parts of Denmark

ALL Denmark, like ancient Gaul, is divided into three parts. There are, of course, scores of minor islands, but the largest and most important sections of the prosperous little Scandinavian nation are: the peninsula of Jutland, the island of Funen, and the island of Zealand. On the eastern shore of the latter stands the capital, Copenhagen (Köbenhavn).

For centuries the only way to travel from one of these sections to another was by boat. Early next year, however, Jutland and Funen will be linked by a magnificent new bridge which will carry rail, motor and foot traffic. This $11,000,000 steel span over the Little Belt, a half-mile-wide sea channel, is nearly completed.

Eventually Funen and Zealand may be joined by bridges, and then it will be possible to reach Copenhagen by rail or motor without change from the continent.

Jutland as Large as Vermont

The new bridge is of greatest importance to Jutland, whose fertile acres and dairy farms will be thus brought several hours nearer to the capital. Jutland comprises nearly two-thirds of the area of the kingdom (aside from colonies), but it possesses less than half the total population. It compares with Vermont in size, but has a density of population three times as great.

Jutland's most striking geographical features are the shallow fjords which cut into the sandy seaboard, especially along the thinly populated west coast. Of these the largest, Lim Fjord, is to-day misnamed. Since 1822 it has been a sound, joining the waters of the North Sea with the Kattegat, and making an island of the extreme northern portion of the peninsula, which ends in a cape called The Skaw. Owing to the character of the soil on both banks, the speed of the current, and the violent impact of floating ice in the spring, only pontoon bridges spanned Lim Fjord until two years ago.

The highest point of land in Jutland, which is also the loftiest in the kingdom, is a line of low hills near the center of the peninsula.

Name Known to Fame

Jutland was the home of the warlike Cimbri, a tribe which for twelve years kept Rome in a state of panic. The Cimbri was the first Germanic host to force its way across the barrier of the Alps into northern Italy, more than five centuries before the descent of the Visigoths.

Jutland also has a familiar ring in the ear of every schoolboy, for he remembers that the Angles and the Jutes were among the first Germanic peoples to emigrate from the shores of the Baltic and settle in Britain. During the World War, Jutland gave its name to the battle fought off its west coast by British and German fleets.

The prosperity and general air of well-being which pervades Jutland to-day dates back only to 1866. At that time the peninsula had been stripped of forests and its people were in dire straits. Colonel E. Dalgas, an engineer of the Danish army, was the leading spirit in the forming of the Danish Heath Society, which began to plant trees throughout the peninsula.

This movement has been extended in recent years and has proved to be the salvation of the land. Mountain firs were first planted, and these were succeeded by red spruce from America. These trees serve as a living barrier against the fierce, sand-driving gales from the North Sea.

The interior of the peninsula is fast losing its barren aspect. More than 2,500

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But ashore, one may approach within a few feet of these reptiles (see illustration below). The water iguana is the only sea-going lizard known to science.

Brilliantly Colored Fish

Brilliantly colored fish dart through the clear green water of Galápagos coves; below them the white sand is aflame with iridescent shells. Moths, snakes, spiders, and small lizards display Nature's artistry in color and design. There are birds with red bills, birds with red eyes, birds with green feet and legs, and birds with small wings which cannot fly (flightless cormorants).

A ride on a giant tortoise's back is as much a feature of a visit to Galápagos as a sleigh ride down a dry, cobblestone hill of Funchal is a feature of a visit to the Madeiras. Some of these creatures are estimated to be from 300 to 400 years old, and are probably the world's oldest living animals.

The archipelago got its popular, although unofficial, name from the giant tortoise; the Spanish word for tortoise being "galápago."

Note: For supplementary references see: "A Wonderer under Sea," *National Geographic Magazine*, December, 1932; and "The Dream Ship," January, 1921.

See also: "The Map of the World" issued as a free supplement to the December 1932, *National Geographic Magazine*.

Bulletin No. 1, December 10, 1934.

Photo. from Visual Education Service, Inc.

AN ECHO FROM THE AGE OF REPTILES

Despite his fierce appearance, the sea iguana, the only marine lizard in the world, is a mild fellow ashore, and will not attack humans. The photographer caught this close-up of "the skin you would hate to touch" on Albemarle Island, the Galápagos. The sea iguana feeds solely upon sea weed.

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Our New Archives, Safe Deposit Box for Nation's "Family Papers"

IN MANY countries of Europe a National Archives has long been an important arm of the government. Several States in this country have similar establishments for the preservation of official papers, records, and other documents. But until this year the United States had no agency responsible for the "family papers" that have charted our course as a nation in the 158 years since the Declaration of Independence was signed.

In June, 1934, Congress enacted a bill creating the Office of Archivist (pronounced "*ark*-i-vist" with the first 'i' as in hit") of the United States. To organize this new agency, President Roosevelt recently appointed Robert Digges Wimberly Connor, of North Carolina, as the Nation's first Archivist.

Along Constitution Avenue, near the apex of the Federal Office Building Triangle, a massive building of modified classic design, the future home of our Archives, is nearing completion. It should be ready for occupancy about the middle of next Summer.

Treasure House of Facts

Thus, within a short space of time, a new and valuable division of the Government has come into being in our National Capital. Teachers, students, lawyers, Congressmen, research scholars, writers, diplomats, historians and others will benefit when this treasure house of records is opened. For the first time scattered records, treaties, legal papers, and other official documents of active or historical value will be gathered together in a fire-proof, dust-proof, and light-proof home.

Much of this priceless material now reposes in dusty files, or in damp cellars, or in half-forgotten lofts, where it is difficult of access and exposed to destruction by fire, light, or dampness.

Just what sort of material will go into our National Archives? Mr. Connor, the new Archivist, says it is perhaps too early to give any list, but the act of Congress creating the office states that all archives or records belonging to the Government of the United States, whether from Congress, the law courts, or the executive divisions under the President, shall be open to inspection by the National Archivist and his staff, and that they may be removed to the Archives Building.

If a government official believes that certain records should be kept secret for a limited period of time, however, these records will not be available for inspection. But the "secret period" cannot be extended beyond the term of office of the official making the request.

None May Be Destroyed without Approval of Congress

The National Archivist and his staff may collect any government records they wish, but, before they may burn or throw away any piece of official paper, they must first get the permission of Congress and the government agency concerned. To prevent overcrowding, the Archivist each year will submit a list of useless material for destruction.

In addition to papers and documents, the National Archives will also receive motion picture films of important historical events. In the Archives Building a small movie theater will show films to those engaged in special historical or governmental researches.

Of interest to scholars throughout the world is the additional provision for a National Historical Publications Committee, which shall recommend documents to be selected for reprinting and distribution to libraries, colleges, writers, etc. On this important committee are representatives of the State, War, Navy Departments, the Library of Congress, and the American Historical Association.

Our Two Greatest Papers

Among the hallowed national "family papers" that will be deposited in the new building are: The Treaty of Paris, 1783, by which Great Britain recognized the independence of the United States; Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation; the Versailles Treaty of 1919; Resolution of Congress declaring war against Germany, April 6, 1917; and the Kellogg Pact, August 27, 1928.

Original copies of our two greatest documents, the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, however, will probably remain in the Library of Congress. They were placed there a few years ago by a special executive order, and another such order is needed before they can be removed.

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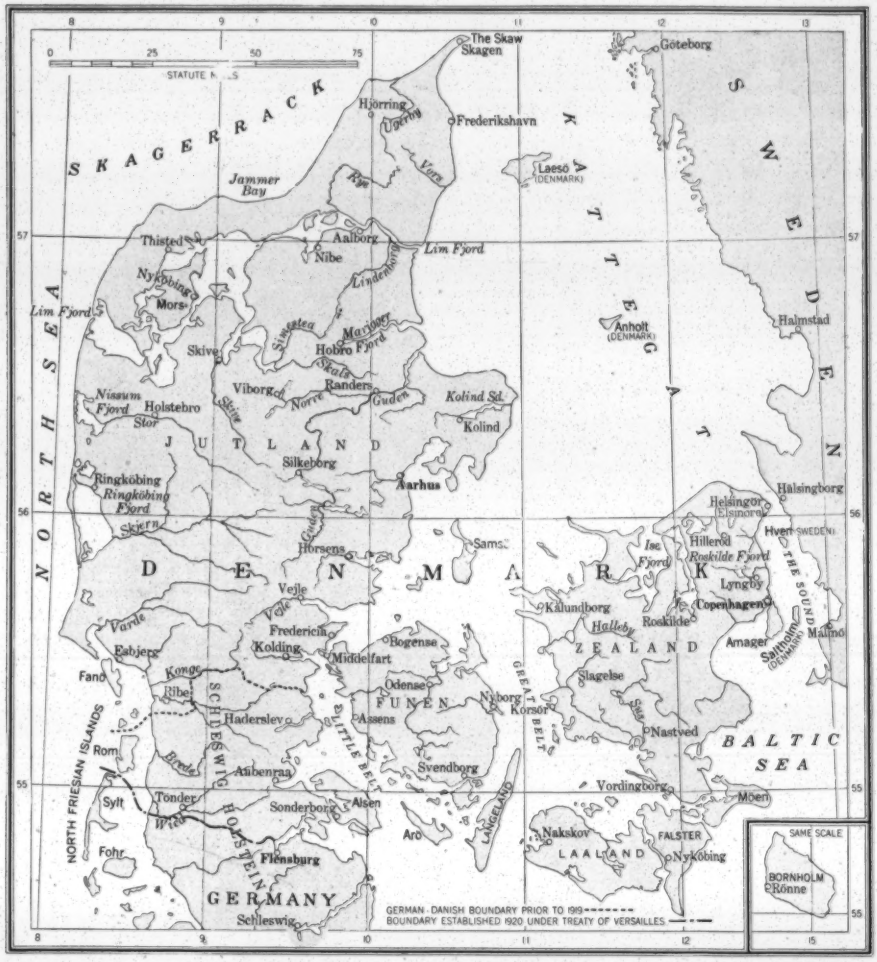
square miles of heath have been redeemed by tree-planting. Oats, barley, beets and rye are now grown profitably; milk cattle and sheep find good pasturage; and the new forests teem with deer, wood pigeons, and other game.

The island of Funen, "the garden of Denmark," is a roughly oval "stepping stone" between Jutland and Zealand. It resembles Jutland, with patches of fertile meadow giving way to forests and stony hills throughout the island. Its chief claim to renown is that Hans Christian Andersen, the immortal creator of fairy tales, was born at Odense, the capital of the island. The famous writer's former home is now a museum of interesting relics concerning his life and works.

Note: See also "Royal Copenhagen, Capital of a Farming Kingdom," *National Geographic Magazine*, February, 1932; "Denmark and the Danes," August, 1922; and "The New Map of Europe," February, 1921.

Bulletin No. 2, December 10, 1934.



Drawn by James M. Darley

THE MAP REVEALS DENMARK'S TRANSPORT PROBLEM

In order to speed communications between Jutland and the capital, Copenhagen, a new rail and highway bridge is being completed between the mainland and the island of Funen, near Fredericia. Denmark has an area almost twice that of Massachusetts.

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Khanka, Manchutikuo's Great Lake

WHERE is Lake Khanka?

Navigation on the lake was one of the subjects discussed at a recent Russo-Japanese parley, called to consider the rights of the two countries on waterways common to Manchutikuo (Manchukuo) and the Soviet Union.

Lake Khanka, Hanka, Khinka, or Chanka—it is known to travelers by one of these names, depending upon the guidebook or map used—lies about midway along the eastern border of Manchutikuo in the same latitude as Portland, Oregon.

Frequently Overflows Banks

Almost as large as Rhode Island, the lake is shaped like a human head facing westward toward the city of Harbin. Because it is the only large body of water in this part of Asia, the lake long has awed natives who live on and near its banks. Normally it is shallow, 30 to 35 feet at the deepest, and in many places scarcely more than 12 inches deep a half-mile from shore.

During summer rains, however, Khanka spills over its banks, flooding surrounding low-lying areas. When high winds whip its expanded waters, the lake resembles an inland sea. It was, perhaps, during one of the great floods that Khanka got its name. "Khan-Kai" is Chinese for "inland sea." "Khanka" is a Russian version of the name.

For centuries Lake Khanka has been important to the natives near its banks, who used its broad surface as an easy means of getting about in small boats; but it has been more valuable for its fisheries. One early writer stated that fish were so numerous that they could be taken from the water with bare hands. The same writer asserted that fish were so abundant in the lake that an observer, sitting on the shore, could hear the dull murmur of their fins as they moved through the water!

Amur River Is Busy Stream

The recent Russo-Japanese parley, in addition to considering Lake Khanka, discussed shipping problems of the two countries on the Amur, Argun, Ussuri, and Sungari Rivers, each of which borders on or flows through Manchutikuo.

The Amur, one of the largest streams in northern Asia, forms the entire northern border of Manchutikuo. Twenty-nine hundred miles in length, with about 2,000 miles of navigable water, it flows from the hills of central Siberia to the Gulf of Tartary. It is the mid-section of the stream, the busiest portion, that separates Manchutikuo from its northern neighbor.

The Argun flows from Mongolia across a western knob of Manchutikuo and then forms the northwestern boundary of the new state, finally entering the Amur. The Ussuri, which also pours its mud-laden waters into the Amur, is the smallest of the important streams discussed at the parley. With Lake Khanka it forms a portion of Manchutikuo's eastern border. It rises north of Vladivostok, and flows northward until it strikes Manchutikuo near the lake.

Although each of these streams is an important trade artery, none is as vital to the new state as the Sungari, which is entirely within its territory. It is, indeed, a life-giving stream to thousands who live far from its banks. It is the main "road" to Harbin, the great Manchutikuoan market for soy beans and grain,

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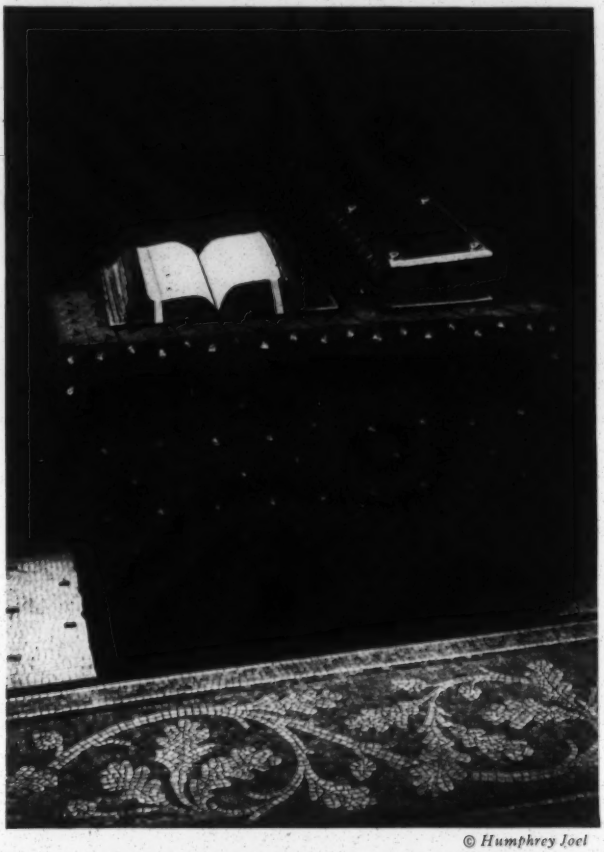
Mr. Connor, the new Archivist, has been associated with historical research work for more than 30 years. From 1903 to 1921 he served as secretary of the Historical Commission of the State of North Carolina. Since 1921 he has been Professor of History at the University of North Carolina.

There will be no place for "nature in the raw" within the new Archives Building. As there are no windows, all light is provided by electricity. Summer and winter the air will be conditioned by a special plant which will wash out any acid content. Temperatures within the building will average about 72 degrees. All metal and stone work will be specially coated to avoid the injurious effects of dust.

The new Archives Building, in case you have not been in Washington recently, occupies a triangular plot of ground near the junction of Pennsylvania and Constitution (formerly "B Street") Avenues. Mr. Connor has temporary offices in the new Department of Justice Building nearby.

See also: "Washington Through the Years," *National Geographic Magazine*, November, 1931; "Approaching Washington by Tidewater Potomac," March, 1930; "Unique Gifts of Washington to the Nation," April, 1929; "The Transformation of Washington," "The Lincoln Memorial," "The Capitol, Wonder Building of the World," and "The Sources of Washington's Charm," June, 1923.

Bulletin No. 3, December 10, 1934.



© *Humphrey Joel*

THE CHIEF TREASURE OF ENGLAND'S ARCHIVES

These two parchment volumes are known as "Domesday Book," and they contain the results of a statistical survey of England made in 1086 by order of William the Conqueror. The official name for England's archives is the Public Records Office, and the Archivist is called The Master of the Rolls.

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Samoa's "Calling of the Shark and the Turtle"

ONE of the most interesting native customs in the world is the "Calling of the Shark and the Turtle" on the island of Tutuila, American Samoa. Few outsiders have seen this ceremony, which is based on ancient traditions dating back to the period before white men discovered these idyllic South Sea isles.

In a special communication to the National Geographic Society, George W. Hutchison, Secretary of The Society, describes a visit to a native village in Samoa, where he witnessed the simple but impressive rites.

"On my recent voyage to Australia I stopped en route at the island of Tutuila, American Samoa," Mr. Hutchison writes. "There I heard of a ceremony conducted by a group of natives in tribute to martyred royalty, who, the natives devoutly believe, still live in the form of a shark and a turtle.

Village Is Nine Miles from Pago Pago

"I was so interested in the stories which were told to me and so curious to see for myself this strange ritual that, through the good auspices of Governor Dowling and Lieut. Commander Earnest, of the U. S. Navy, stationed at Pago Pago (pronounced "Pango Pango"), I was able to make arrangements to drive over to the village of Vai Togi (meaning "Hurled Waters"), which was about nine miles distant, and across the island, from the capital.

"Commander Earnest kindly sent his Samoan housemaid along as interpreter. It so happened that her brother was mayor of the village, and, much to my amusement, she rounded up all the natives in the village. Together they all proceeded to the edge of the sea. Here the coastline, being formed of volcanic rock, is very rugged and picturesque (see illustration, page 2). All the children of the village congregated on a large rock and began to sing, making motions to the water with their hands.

"Meanwhile the waves were dashing furiously against the rock, throwing spray high into the air, and drenching the children. But the youngsters did not seem to mind the water and continued their chant without ceasing. Sure enough, after possibly three or four minutes, there appeared just under the surface of the clear blue water a small shark, which I judge to have been some four or five feet in length.

Chanting Changes as Shark Appears

"At the appearance of the shark the chanting of the children changed, and with their hands they waved at the shark, as we would wave in greeting or farewell to friends approaching or departing. The shark remained visible for a minute or more, swimming to and fro in a friendly fashion, and then departed into the depths of the sea.

"Then the song and chant again changed, and, after a period of watchful waiting we saw a turtle slowly rise to the surface of the water and swim around a bit.

The same procedure followed; the natives waving, and adding to their chant: 'In le le la le le,' which, I am told, means 'Beautiful one.'

"The legend of the Calling of the Shark and the Turtle is a pretty story, based upon an event which is said to have taken place many years ago. As the story goes, a Samoan prince and princess were walking along the so-called 'iron

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principal crops of a vast region. Rising in the mountains of Kirin Province, in southeastern Manchutikuo, it flows northwestward to the center of the state, thence northeastward past Harbin and finally to the Amur.

Sungari-oola, as the natives know the stream, means "River of Heaven." As it leaves the Kirin Mountains and strikes the flat lowlands of Manchutikuo, it divides into many branches. The principal stream is, in some places, nearly 1,800 feet wide and from 20 to 40 feet deep.

Note: For additional pictures of this remote part of the world see: "Here in Manchuria," *National Geographic Magazine*, February, 1933; "Byroads and Backwoods of Manchuria," January, 1932; "Manchuria, Promised Land of Asia," October, 1929; "The Far Eastern Republic," June, 1922; "Western Siberia and the Altai Mountains," May, 1921; and "Glimpses of Siberia, Russia's 'Wild East'," December, 1920.

Bulletin No. 4, December 10, 1934.

READER SHOWS DIVERSITY OF BULLETINS

A reader of the GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS has sent us the following analysis of places and subject matter treated in the BULLETINS between October 1 and November 19, 1934. This "breakdown" (as they say in advertising circles) illustrates the diversity and range of the BULLETINS in a period of eight weeks, during which 40 bulletins and 56 illustrations appeared.

Places Treated: Asia 8, Europe (except England) 8, England 5, North America (except United States) 4, United States 7, South America 4, Africa 4, Australia 1, Antarctica 1.

Subject matter or sources of items: Political events 9, Building developments 7, Crops and minerals 5, Anniversaries 4, Expeditions 3, Flights 3, Shipping events 2, Dramatic events 2, Educational 2, Disasters 2, Athletics 1.

Photograph by Owen Lattimore

WHEN WINTER COMES TO NORTHERN MANCHUTIKUO

Rivers along the Siberian border are no longer barriers during cold months, and rivermen earn a living by cutting holes in the ice and selling water in crystal troughs to teams that draw sleds full of brushwood, coal, furs, and other cargoes.

bound coast' of the island near the palm-shaded village of Vai Togi, bemoaning threatened disaster to their people. Summoning courage, they sought out the god of the islands and asked him: 'What may we do to save our people? Famine and death menace them!'

How the People Were Saved

"'It will take great sacrifice to save your people,' replied the god. Addressing the princess he said: 'You must jump from yon cliff into the sea, where you will be turned into a turtle.' The prince he commanded: 'You must do likewise, and your form will be changed into that of a shark.'

"Whereupon, the legend goes, both the prince and princess immediately leaped into the sea.

"Ever since, at various times, the natives have congregated at this spot to do them honor, and to chant the native song which I had just heard.

"In Samoa visitors are cautioned never to point at a shark. By the natives this is considered a breach of etiquette in the presence of long-martyred Samoan royalty, who might take offense at such undue familiarity!"

Note: Other data about strange customs and life in South Sea islands will be found in the following: "Around the World in the *Islander*," *National Geographic Magazine*, February, 1928; "The Romance of Science in Polynesia," October, 1925; "Sailing the Seven Seas in the Interest of Science," December, 1922; "The Islands of the Pacific," December, 1921; and "America's South Sea Soldiers," September, 1919.

See also: "The Map of the World" published as a free supplement to the December 1932, *National Geographic Magazine*.

Bulletin No. 5, December 10, 1934.

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SAMOANS ARE FIRM BELIEVERS IN THE "OPEN DOOR"

Except on windy or rainy days the fiber mats which constitute the walls of circular native homes are rolled up inside, exposing the entire interior of the Samoan home to public view. The stone floor is generally raised about a foot or two above the ground, and is covered with straw matting. In such homes, the colorful bark cloth, or *tapa*, is still made by native artisans, although imported cotton goods is slowly replacing it for clothing.